

CLAIMS

1. An identification device including first and second machine-readable identification codes arranged along different dimensional axes to one another.

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2. An identification device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second identification codes are located substantially orthogonal to one another.

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3. An identification device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein there is provided a third identification code arranged in a direction different from the directions of the first and second codes.

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4. An identification device according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein there is provided a fourth identification code which has a physical characteristic different from that of the first, second and/or third codes.

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5. An identification device according to claim 4, wherein the different physical characteristic is a different chemical composition, electrical characteristic, magnetic characteristic, colour or texture.

6. An identification device according to any preceding claim, wherein the identification device has dimensions of the order of micrometers or less in at least one direction.

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7. An identification device according to any preceding claim, wherein the device has dimensions of the order of micrometers or less in at least two directions.

8. An identification device according to any preceding claim, including coding units of the order of nanometers in at least one direction.

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9. A security device for an article, including a coded item having coding units of the order of nanometers in at least one dimension.

10. A security device according to claim 9, wherein the coded item is a barcode and the coding units are individual bars of the barcode.

5 11. A security device according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the coded item provides a code in at least two dimensions.

12. A security device for an article including a coded item providing a two-dimensional security code and a substrate supporting the coded item.

10 13. A security device designed for provision on or in a currency banknote or other security paper.

15 14. Detection apparatus for detecting an identification or security device according to any preceding claim, including means for locating a device on an article and at least one reading means, wherein the reading means includes an atomic force microscope or other micro computerised measuring machine.